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(56) Documents Cited

WO 99/49945 A1 WO 97/18021 A1 HU 009802574 A1
US 5540516 A

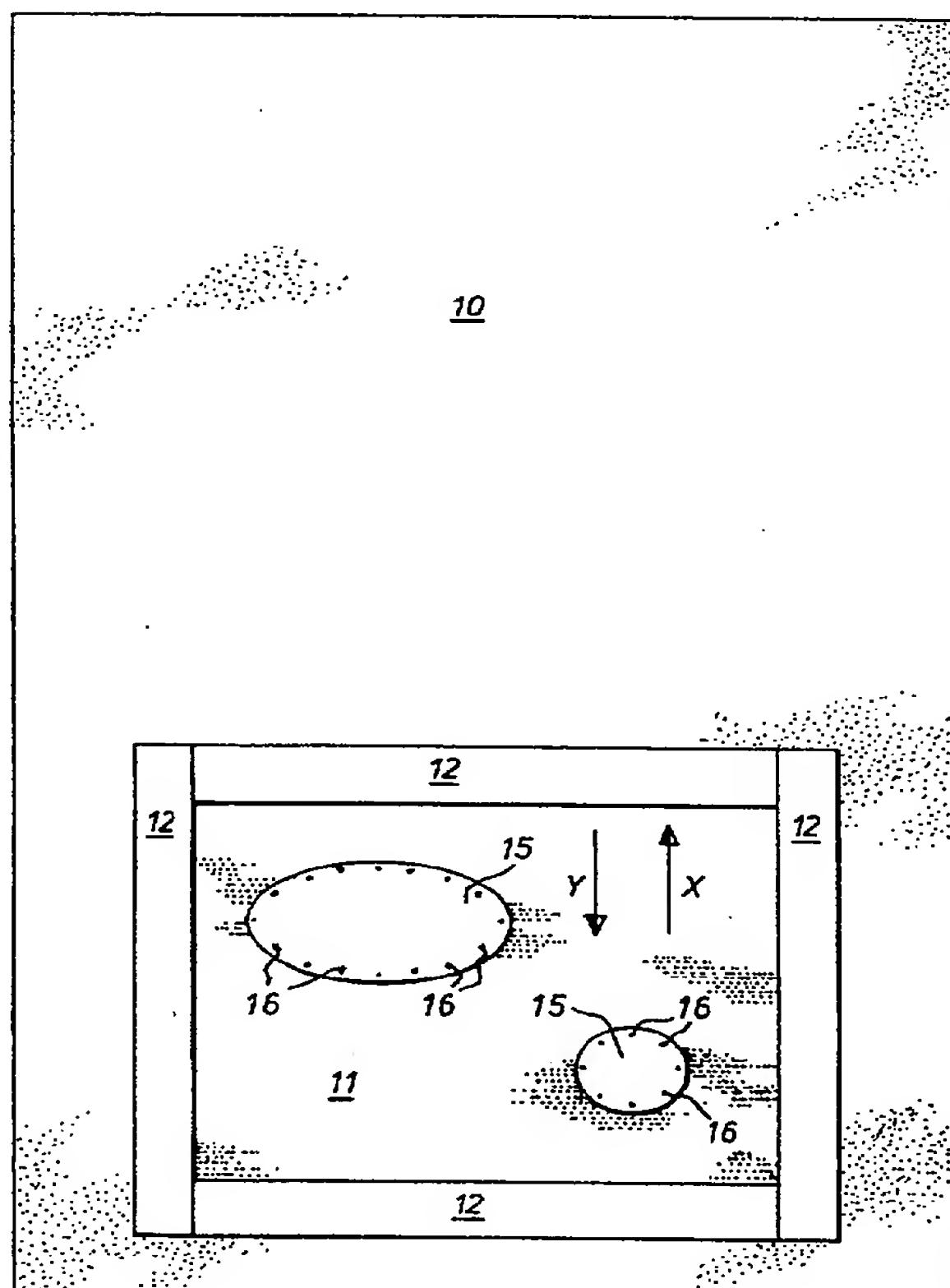
(58) Field of Search

Online: EPODOC, PAJ, WPI.

(54) Abstract Title

Method of forming indicia on a grass surface.

(57) A method of forming indicia on a grass surface 10 comprises the steps of rolling the grass of the surface in one direction and rolling selected areas of the grass in a different direction to create the desired image of the indicia. A suitably shaped template 15, made of e.g. flexible plastic or rubber sheet, may be pegged 16 out at appropriate positions over the grass surface.

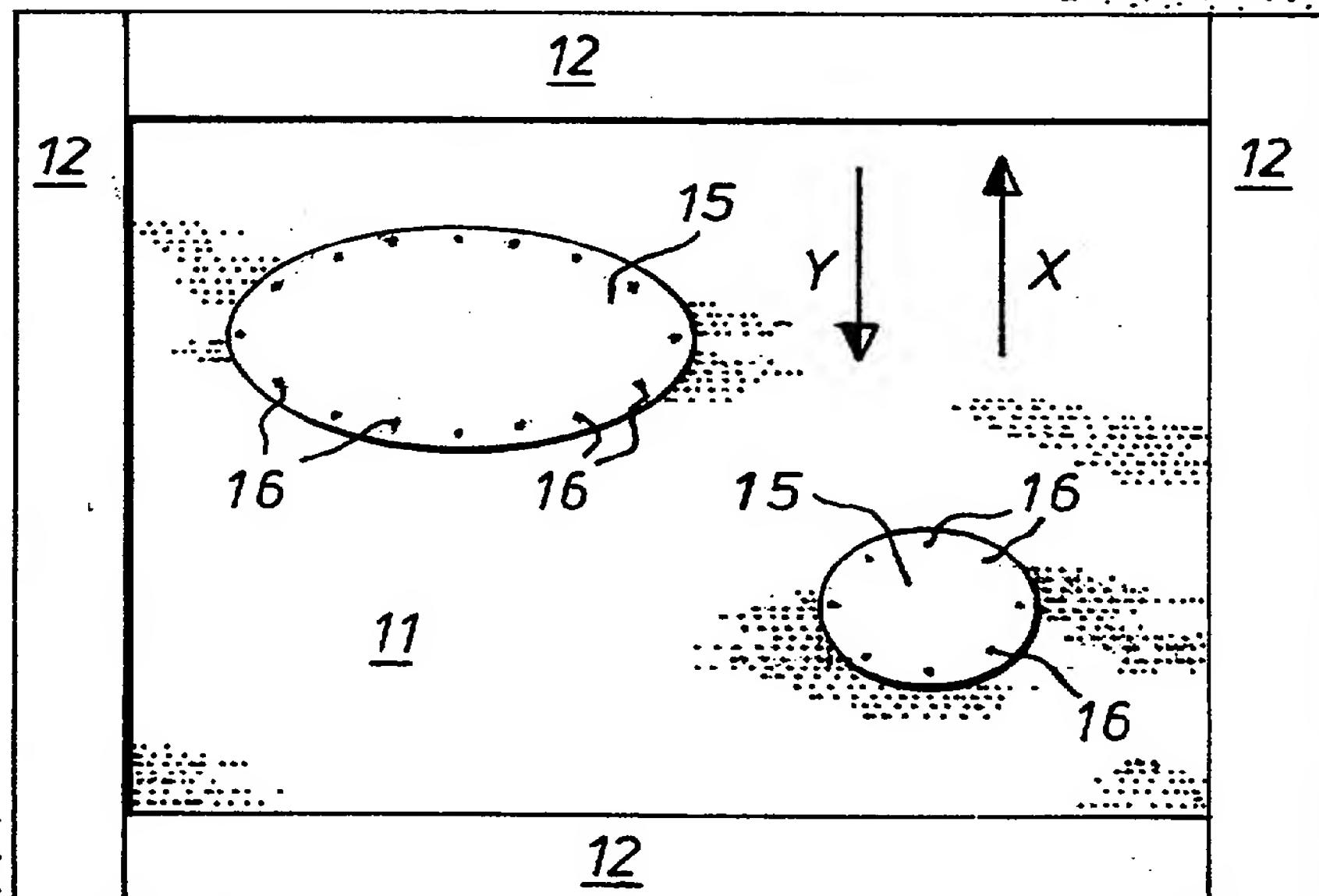


At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy. The claims were filed later than the filing date but within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1995. The print reflects an assignment of the application under the provisions of Section 30 of the Patents Act 1977.

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METHOD OF MARKING INDICIA ONTO A GRASS SURFACE

This invention concerns a method of marking indicia, and more particularly onto a grass surface.

Both here and throughout the specification by "indicia" we mean advertising messages, logos or similar, all intended to convey some meaning to the observer.

It is known to mark such as cricket grounds, using a line marking paint, with indicia such as the name and logo of an organisation sponsoring the match or event. Whilst such indicia is highly visible to spectators, including those participating through television, it would likely be a distraction to competitors or players in all but events being as sedate as cricket for example.

According to the present invention a method of marking indicia onto a grass surface comprises the steps of rolling the grass of the surface in a first direction and rolling selected areas of the grass in the opposite direction to create the desired image of the indicia, said first direction being away from the position where the indicia is primarily to be observed.

Either or both of the rolling operations may be accompanied by a mowing operation.

Running boards may be placed around the area of the indicia whereby machinery used for the rolling operation does not cause marks outside said area.

The unselected areas may be covered by templates to shield the underlying grass from the second rolling operation.

The templates may be laid on the grass surface displaced from their required position and drawn to the final position in the direction of the lay of the underlying grass.

The templates may be rigid or of a flexible sheet of rubber, plastics or similar material.

The templates may be pegged to the ground at spaced intervals prior to the second rolling operation.

Each of the rolling operations may be preceded by a light raking or brushing in the same direction.

The invention will be further apparent from the following description, with reference to the single figure of the accompanying drawing which shows in diagrammatic form the steps for practising one method embodying same.

Referring now to the drawing, the area 10 comprises a grass surface. It might be a football ground, cricket ground, horse racing track or similar.

Generally such surface will have been mown to display, for example, alternating dark and light stripes.

The area 11 to be occupied by the indicia is marked off and lightly raked or brushed in the direction of the arrow X so that the blades of grass lean away from the

position where the indicia is primarily intended to be viewed (the focal point) - for example the site of a television camera focused on the area.

Running boards 12 are then positioned to frame the area 11 to enable any machinery used for subsequent operations to be operated without disturbing the grass outside of the area 11.

The area 11 is rolled - possibly as part of a mowing operation - in the direction of the arrow X which is away from the focal point. By the term rolled we include the possibility of brushing or any other operation designed to deflect the blades of grass in a chosen direction.

This operation may be repeated as necessary to ensure that the grass is lying as flat as possible away from the focal point.

A template comprising one or more sheets 15 of a flexible plastics material having a thickness of about 5 mm and a shape corresponding with that of the indicia to be created is or are laid over the area 11 in appropriate positions and secured by pegs 16 at spaced intervals around their outer edges.

The sheets are initially positioned on the grass surface displaced from their required position and drawn to their final position in the direction of the lay of the underlying grass.

The area 11 is then lightly raked or brushed in a different direction, preferably 180° from the direction of the first rolling as indicated by the arrow Y, before being rolled again as many times as necessary until the exposed grass is lying as flat as possible towards the focal point.

The sheet or sheets 15 shield the underlying grass from the second rolling operation whereby the lay of the sward is undisturbed whilst that of the surrounding areas is reversed.

After the second rolling operation the sheet or sheets 15 are removed.

The resulting indicia is barely visible to the players of, for example, football on the ground and certainly no distraction, but is highly visible from the elevated position of spectators in the stands and television cameras, particularly in the vicinity of the focal point.

It will be appreciated that it is not intended to limit the invention to the above example only, many variations, such as might readily occur to one skilled in the art, being possible, without departing from the scope thereof.

CLAIMS

1. A method of marking indicia onto a grass surface comprising the steps of rolling the grass of the surface in a first direction and rolling selected areas of the grass in the opposite direction to create the desired image of the indicia, said first direction being away from the position where the indicia is primarily to be observed.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein either or both of the rolling operations is accompanied by a mowing operation.
3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein running boards are placed around the area of the indicia whereby machinery used for the rolling operation does not cause marks outside said area.
4. A method according to any preceding claim wherein the unselected areas are covered by templates to shield the underlying grass from the second rolling operation.
5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the templates are laid on the grass surface displaced from their required position and drawn to the final position in the direction of the lay of the underlying grass.
6. A method according to claim 4 or claim 5 wherein the templates are rigid or of a flexible sheet of rubber, plastics or similar material.
7. A method according to any one of claims 4-6 wherein the templates are pegged to the ground at spaced intervals prior to the second rolling operation.
8. A method according to any preceding claim wherein each of the rolling operations is preceded by a light raking or brushing in the same direction.

Amendments to the claims have been filed as follows

1. A method of marking indicia onto a grass surface comprising the steps of rolling the grass of the surface in a first direction and rolling selected areas of the grass in the opposite direction to create the desired image of the indicia, said first direction being away from the position where the indicia is primarily to be observed and wherein the unselected areas are covered by templates to shield the underlying grass from the second rolling operation, the templates being laid on the grass surface displaced from their required position and drawn to the final position in the direction of the lay of the underlying grass.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein either or both of the rolling operations is accompanied by a mowing operation.
3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein running boards are placed around the area of the indicia whereby machinery used for the rolling operation does not cause marks outside said area.
4. A method according to any one of claims 1-3 wherein the templates are rigid or of a flexible sheet of rubber, plastics or similar material.
5. A method according to any one of claims 1-4 wherein the templates are pegged to the ground at spaced intervals prior to the second rolling operation.
6. A method according to any preceding claim wherein each of the rolling operations is preceded by a light raking or brushing in the same direction.



Application No: GB 0005672.1
Claims searched: 1 to 8

Examiner: Matthew Jefferson
Date of search: 16 August 2001

Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.S): None.

Int Cl (Ed.7): None.

Other: Online: EPODOC, PAJ, WPI.

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	WO 99/49945 A1 (TURF IMAGE LTD.) See whole document.	1 to 8.
X	WO 97/18021 A1 (ATHAR INT. SERVICES S.A.) See abstract and figures.	1.
X	US 5540516 A (NICODEMO ET AL.) See abstract and figures.	1.

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.